



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Former National Guard Employee Sentenced to 7 to 8 Years in Prison for Theft

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that former National Guard employee Antrina Berks, 47, of Lincoln was sentenced to seven to eight years in prison for one count of theft by unlawful taking and one count of theft by deception today in Lancaster County District Court.

In February 2008, a Nebraska State Patrol investigation found that Berks, as a civilian employee with the Nebraska National Guard, made \$39,092 in unauthorized refund requests on the Nebraska National Guard's postage meter accounts between August 2005 and May 2006. These refund checks were illegally endorsed by Berks and deposited into an unauthorized joint account in the name of Berks and the Nebraska National Guard.

The dollar amount above also includes \$700 in checks illegally signed by Berks and payable to the National Guard between March and May of 2006. Berks deposited these checks into the same joint account, and then wrote checks on the joint account for her personal expenses.

Berks was charged with felony theft by unlawful taking and pleaded guilty in December of 2008.

"Ms. Berks did the unthinkable and stole from people who serve and protect our state and our nation," said Bruning. "Not only is that illegal, it's unacceptable. Today's sentence holds Ms. Berks accountable for her actions."

Berks also pleaded guilty to felony theft by deception for illegally obtaining \$12,756 in housing assistance from the Lincoln Housing Authority from May 2005 to April 2007. Berks didn't report her civilian employee income to the Lincoln Housing Authority. Her combined income as a civilian employee and a guardsman of the Nebraska National Guard would have made her ineligible for assistance.

Theft by unlawful taking is a class III felony. Theft by deception is a class IV felony. Both sentences will be served consecutively.

Assistant Attorneys General Doug Warner and Stacy Foust handled the case.

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